

Sheekookian 1999-0269

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (*currently amended*) A method of providing user-chosen telephone services ~~on through a digital cable TV set-top box, the digital cable TV set-top box coupled to a cable network headend with a service provider's telephone network also coupled to the cable network headend, the method comprising the steps of:~~

scanning for an available downstream channel on the cable network by a set-top box;

synchronizing with the available downstream channel by the set-top box;

synchronizing, through the cable network headend and over the available downstream channel, with the service provider's telephone network by the set-top box;

downloading telephone service programs and data from the service provider's telephone network to the set-top box by the service provider;

executing the programs downloaded to the set-top box by the user to select a user-chosen telephone service;

entering data selections made by the user in the set-top box;

storing the user selections in the set-top box; and

using the user selections by the set-top box to provide a user-chosen telephone service to the user.

2. (*original*) The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of storing the user selections in the set-top box comprises the step of:

storing the user selections in a storage medium removably coupled to the set-top box.

3. (*original*) The method as in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

removing the storage medium from the set-top box; and

inserting the removed storage medium in a second set-top box, thereby achieving a functionality in the second set-top box similar in nature to the first set-top box.

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4. (*currently amended*) Computer-executable program code stored on a computer-readable medium, said program code configured to provide consumer-chosen telephone services on utilizing a digital cable TV set-top box, the digital cable TV set-top box coupled to a cable network headend with a service provider's telephone network also coupled to the cable network headend, comprising:

code to scan for an available downstream channel on the cable network;

code to synchronize the digital cable TV set-top box with the available downstream channel;

code to synchronize the digital cable TV set-top box with a service provider's telephone network through the cable network headend;

code to download programs and data to the set-top box over the available downstream channel;

code to enable a user to select a desired telephone service;

code to enter the user's selections in the set-top box;

code to store the user's selections in the set-top box; and

code to use the user's selections to provide a the desired telephone service to the user.

5. *cancelled*